

BERNICE CHAMBERS  
ACCOUNT OF 1980  
MINNESOTA TRIP

II

Sunny & bright - Ruthie & Bernie crocheting & all 4 talking. Minnesota line at 7:30 P.M. At 8 P.M. stopped at Avatoma, Minn. at Thrifty Scot Motel \$30.00, #112 room - very nice - 2 double beds - a view of the back side of motel - nothing, when we looked out our window. We wanted to get up at 6 A.M. & get started early, so showers were taken & alarm set & all settled down, with Ruth in the middle of 2 saw mills - at least one sawed logs all night - Curtis. Alarm went off at 6 A.M. Sat Doc shaved while Curt went outside. Curt found one tire flat - a brand new tire - and Doc cut his finger. Looked at first, like he would need a transfusion.

We started unloading the truck to get to the spare. What a mess! Suitcases, boxes of groceries, fishing rods! We carried it all into the Motel room & Curt & Doc put on the spare & Curt took the car to the Phillips 66 station to mend the tire & Doc took us women to remend our bodies, with coffee. Curt had to wait for the station to open.

III

Finally, had very good breakfast & re-loaded the car. What a job! Couldn't get it packed the way it was at first, so we could hardly find room for all the stuff. We were on our way at 8 A.M. - going North - bright & sunny & only 2 hours later than we had planned. Car all loaded & us too, with food & coffee. We had Bible reading from Isaiah - read by Doc. Ruthie Bernie crocheting again. We each started an afghan a year ago. Doc reading again from Proverbs about the saucy & pert.

At 9 A.M. we are going around the Twin Cities - if we don't get lost - because part of the #494 loop is unfinished. Ruthie & Bernie keeping cool with our bag between us, filled with cool cucumbers, cabbage heads, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, bananas & cheese. Well! - it happened - we're lost. Curt made one wrong decision & turned left instead of right, like Doc told him. Stopped at a Rent all place to ask directions and they said to keep going the same direction & we would be where we wanted to be. Stopped at a Phillip's station

IV \$  
for gas  $1\frac{1}{10}$  gal for 13.20. Got more directions which took us through the heart of St. Paul. Saw the Civic Center - a round dome building. Saw 2 other big dome (capitol looking) buildings - one had a lot of little domes.

Whew!! - We almost went to Wisconsin when Curt started to turn E. on #94. He didn't, so we're O.K. - time out for a big sigh of relief! Were on 35 E finally, going north to White Bear. Ruthie & Bernie might get the afghans done now, since we don't have to look at the road & back seat drive - if Bernie don't lose her crochet hook again. I've lost it 10 times already. There are lots of tall trees - pines and asps-ps-ps-ps.

At 11:45 A.M. were turning off on #33. At noon we stopped at a Country Kitchen for too much lunch. 12:45 and 4 stuffed toads, on their way again on undivided road.

Lots of yelling going on (to keep Curt awake) when Ruthie touches Doc with her toe.

1:05 P.M. on #53 north and a divided road. There was supposed to have been an Indian Reservation on that #33 road, but we saw nary and Indian or a tepee.

F

At 1:45 we came to Virginia, a nice sized place. 2 miners on a hillside. Saw a bicycle built for 2, with a 2 wheel trailer behind, on the road going south - funny looking! At 1:56 the divided highway ends - Tall timber country - looks like big black bear country - very isolated looking - not a good place to have a flat tire. Stopped at Cook, for gas \$20.80 for 16 gal. - Rest Stop too, as usual + also got 2 cans of pop to quench the thirst for 4 weary travelers. All the houses have huge piles of wood in their yards - (not stacked in neat rows.)

Curt did it again - passed our Lake Rd. Huge Walleye on the corner with a saddle on him. We made a U. turn - came back + stopped at the corner, for groceries. She charged us for 5 "little jar" spinners instead of 4. Guess we looked rich. Ha! Maybe it was Doss' big Texas hat. They gave us #7 Cabin at Kabetagama (not too clean). No pans or bowls to bake in. Sink won't drain. Have to plunge it, to get the water out. Lots of fun too! Men went out to get a big one while we women unpack.

Speedometer reading 7279 (719 miles)

## VI

Men came in from fishing at 9:30 P.M. with 3 walleye. Ate - then played pinochle till 11 P.M. Down fair the count till 7 A.M. Sun. Breakfast & dishes - oh yes - sink plunged to get it drained. Ruthie couldn't find her necklace after showering last night, so men went out alone, to fish, while Ruthie & I looked for it. Two hours later I found it in her jacket pocket, after looking in every thing 2 or 3 times. We are cooking a head of cabbage - what a smell! Going to have fish for lunch - then go to International Falls, Canada, while the other fish sleep, in the bottom of the lake, through the heat of the afternoon.

Ruthie & I took a 40 min. walk - went to the store to call home <sup>Dave don't answer.</sup> - came back & climbed through the window, to get in - you guessed it - we locked the door & left our key in the cabin.

Lunch over and off for International Falls crossed the border, after the 3rd degree at 2:45 (Are you a U.S. citizen? Why are you going to Canada? How long will you stay? Are you leaving anything there or bringing anything back?) toll \$1.75 Passed Baise Cascade Mills - lots of logs. Drove down Scott St. - Saw Rainy River - nice big park - lots of pure bred Indians - nice beach - lots of swimmers - 2 house boats on the lake - 3

## VII

pontoon planes took off from the water. Little black boy, about 2 years old, was very friendly & followed us, with his hand in mine, to the car. I walked him back to the park. Paid \$1.75 toll to get back into the U.S. Was asked how we liked Canada. I told him it wasn't any different than the U.S. Fished again - Sunday's catch was 1 northern.

Was up on Monday at 7 A.M. Men went fishing alone & Ruthie & I gandied. Took pictures of big Walleye. Was going to Ray - but couldn't find it. We drove 17 miles, without seeing Ray, to Little Fork. Nothing there but saloons, except 1 church, 1 school & a few houses. There wasn't even any civilization for the 17 miles - didn't see any cars. When we came back - we found Ray - just west of the Forks, where one road went to International Falls. It was there when we passed it - a store, church, P.O., & 2 or 3 houses. We were going to see a lot of Ray, but it wasn't big enough. Stopped at the store for a few things. When we got back to the cabin we took some pictures under our Pagoda lamp. Each of us were working hard, (crocheting). The ceiling light jiggles with the cross ventilation. The kitchen sink & stove still putting out odors. Men came in-

## VIII

Curt sick (with the heat) They rested during the heat of the day - after lunch. Then all of us played pinocle for awhile - then the 4 of us went fishing, after our delicious supper. All our meals are above Par. The catch of the day for Moa was "zero". It was nice & cool out on the lake. When we go fishing, we putt very slowly, down an enticing inlet to the lake. Every time the men dock our boat, someone moans, because we aren't in the right docking place, for our resort. We saw one couple going out, as we came in, who were over cooked, from sun exposure. Shawns bed.

Tues, found 3 of us up at 6 A.M. Guess who wasn't up? Ruthie had been trying to get him up for 3 days, so decided to get him out of bed. After a delicious breakfast, the 2 sweet little fishermen, try again to get some fish, to keep from eating tuna or salmon.

After all the "heavy housework", Ruthie & I crocheted for an hour - then took a 2 hr. walk. Little did we know that it would be our last walk. The road was isolated - tall trees on both sides. There were no houses, no resorts, no animals in pastures, no pastures, no traffic. We were really enjoying the clean air & breeze.

## IX

At the end of the road where there's a crossroad we went into an Antique & wood & things gift shop. There was a beautiful pump organ, old pictures, oil lamps, lanterns, tables, clocks & odds & ends of expensive junk. Very interesting to look at. They also served food & booze in the evenings. The main thing we saw there was a grouch. I guess because we didn't patronize his bar. On our way back, we stopped at a Sr. Citizens building - no one there - an empty building, not quite finished, with a small house behind, by the woods. We picked some wild flowers (like little Red Riding hood - only we had no hoods). We found 6 kinds & 4 kinds of fern. This was for a \$30 birthday bouquet for Bernie. Little did we know that it was unlawful to pick wild flowers. We found it out 3 days later.

As we arrived at our cabin, 2 guys with a noisy machine was pumping out our sewage - imagine - no more plunging in the sink.

We have been having the nicest breeze in our Cabin - need covers at night and a few windows closed. Very good sleeping.

These men came in with 4 walleye & 1 northern at noon - took a nap after eating. Ruthie & I headed for Ray

## X

again to mail letters. We found Ray, right there, West of the crossing, where it was the last time we couldn't find it. Bought a Pepperidge Farm birthday cake & candles. Stopped at Sr. Citizens, just as they were closing. They said come back the next day & they would bring some crafts. All 4 went fishing after supper & the total catch was 1 walleye, caught by little old me, Bernie. I threw one small walleye back & one got off the hook about 4 foot from the boat. The men had "o" catch. They said we were jinxes. It was nice & cool out there & the sunset was beautiful. We did some still fishing & took turns getting hung upon weeds, rock & anchor rope. Curious was almost exclusively the anchor rope man. Almost dark, so we go to shore, up our enticing little channel-dock the boat & unload & carry to the cabin. Showers & Bed, after pinochle. Up before 7 AM on Wednesday - another very good breakfast. Very windy, so men went out fishing alone. Ruthie & I did our hard, daily work, then crocheted for 2 hours. If we don't spend more time crocheting, we will have to burn the midnight oil to finish our year old projects. Went for a walk & investigated all the other resorts, discovering (not to our surprise) that ours was now cleanest.

## XI

Found one sparsely settled road winding up a hill. At the turn it said "Stop, Private Road." So we stopped. I said to Ruthie "I wonder if there's any bears up there?" She said "We don't want to go see." So we came back to the Cabin to crochet. This was the ~~night~~ day for a big celebration dinner - for me - Bernie. Were having it early, because my birthday isn't till Sat. - but we don't want any left over cake & food. We had fish, fried taters with onions, slaw, corn bread, red jello loaded with fruit and a beautiful 6 in. square, white, lacy, delicious, birthday cake with 6 large multicolored candles. Of course I'm ageless. Took pictures of cake, gifts, people, wild flowers 30 bouquet all, with our Pagoda lamp. It's called this because the shade is shaped like a Chinese pagoda. Got perfume to make me smell good & butterfly soap to put in drawer for smelly undies & a lovely used book of poems. (Ruthie already read the poems & commented on a few) These 3 things were from Ruthie & Mathiason with a short poem written by Doc. While we were eating they came to our door to tell us there was an emergency call from Davey. He wanted to know how to run the dishwasher.

The guys hit the sack after lunch to saw logs - so Ruthie & I hit the road - for the Sh. Citizens building. Found some goodies to buy and nice people to talk to. They directed us to the Methodist Church Bazaar, where there were more goodies to buy.

Then - we stopped at Mr & Mrs Harry Buck's beautiful 3 room log cabin with a loft. Harry is an artist in wood carving &

picture painting. Their cabin was filled with Antiques & works of art. Oh yes - we have 6 chances to win a dog sled with man and 5 dogs, carried by Harry. We took a tour of their house, which had every available wall space full & tables & shelves full of works of art or antiques. They showed us the garage & work shop and their green house. It was the cleanest, neatest, best smelling & holed green house I ever did see. It had wall to wall carpeting on the floor, a neat ruffled, tie back curtain, at the window, pictures on the wall, 2 bright red fluffy lid covers, a wash stand & basin & water bucket, magazine rack & waste basket. Then we made another stop at Sr. Citizens to retrieve my dark glasses. We have an invitation to supper on Thurs. - but I'm no likeee. We also found out today that these woods are full of bears and sometimes they come into camps at night to find food & raid the garbage pails. Buck's said a cub bear climbed a tree in their back yard and stayed there all day. We had been so brave - no more, no more walks either. We were told, the bears come to the dump in early evenings to eat garbage. They gave us directions, how to get there. This would prove that there were bears in all these woods. We are 30 miles from the nearest big town. It looks like a wilderness & it is a wilderness, where we are fishing. The lake is beautiful & has lots of islands. We don't go out very far, so we won't get lost.

We are waiting for our sweet little fisherman

### XIII

to come in with lots of fish. That was wishful thinking. They said we were jinks?!! They caught exactly nothing, all day & no fish! Thursday is a cold, windy day. Ruthie & I let the men go out alone, again. We put on our jackets and went to Ray & got gas for our trip home & mailed letters at P. O. Got 18<sup>50</sup> gallon at 24.02 worth. Stopped at the Walleye corner and a little antique shop & 300<sup>00</sup> on our way back. We saw some stuffed animals & birds & skins. They had an out board motor that was one of the very first. There were many antiques of all kinds. The Walleye corner had a gift shop behind their grocery store & we read all the plaques & pictures & drew some ideas on paper to make. There was one sign that said "Don't Criticize a Woman's Judgement - she married a matt." When we got back to the Cabin we closed all the windows, to keep warm. Men came in at noon with 4 walleye - very small. Curt lit the heater and sat on it, to get warm. They ate lunch & went back out & came in at 6:30 with 2 good sized northern. We made chili for supper since it was so cold, and we also wanted to use up some cans, so we wouldn't have to take them home with us. Went to store & bought hamburger & it was frozen. Ruthie & I started crocheting, since we hadn't made any stitches today & Ruthie got sleepy & slept for almost 2 hours. Bernie fixed the chili. Here it is for future use, because it really turned out to be very good chili, and we eliminated a lot of packing. over

XIV

Bernie's Special Chili for Fishing Trips

- 1 1/2 ground beef - browned slowly (since it was frozen)
- 1 pkg. dry onion soup mix
- 1 pkg. dry Sloppy Joe mix
- 3 cans Campbell's tomato soup
- 1 can water
- 1 can park & beans
- 1 can Hormel chili with beans

Simmer 2 hours.

Eat with left over any thing you have.

We had flavored animal crackers & triskets.  
T.V. snack cheese, carrots sticks, sliced  
cabbage hearts, left over jello, fruit salad &  
left over cake & cookies. Sure was good!!

After supper we drove to the dump  
to see if we could see any bears. What a  
smell! There were about 2 dozen dumpsters  
setting in a clearing, off the road. One  
middle sized, black bear was on top of  
one dumpster pulling out fish heads and  
guts and making them disappear fast.  
Then a huge bear came out of the woods  
& looked around with his squinty eyes.  
He was the biggest bear I ever saw -  
probably 500 lbs or more. He would  
snooze awhile then go back to the woods. They  
say they are afraid of cars & people, but I'm not  
getting close enough to one to find out. We stayed  
longer than Ruthie & I cared to stay. We weren't  
as brave as we were, when we were walking  
around, before we knew there were bears in  
"them Thar Woods". It's cold & windy tonight, so  
when we got back to the cabin, the men went out  
alone, to try their luck again. Ruthie called Dave  
& it was 98° in St. Joe & we are wearing jackets to  
keep warm, up here. Back to crocheting - waiting till  
10 P.M. for the fishermen & 5 Walleye - one was biggggg

## IV

Friday we were up at 7 AM. It rained while we slept (One snored). It is so-o-o-old. After a good breakfast, the men went fishing alone - again. It's either too sunny, or too cold, or too windy for Bernies weak, watery eyes, on the water, for us to go with them. Besides - the men say we are a jinks - (quoted by Doc) - But they got nothing - o - nil - several times when we weren't along. Today is beauty parlor day - kitchen dining area. 2 heads clean, blanched dry, curled, combed, & sprayed. Only one operator - Bernie. Both gals are beautiful. (Is that possible?) Men came in at noon with 4 very small Walleye. They ate & did as the pigs do - ate and went to sleep. Ruthie & I went to the Sr. Citizens and looked at more goodies. Came back & men were gone. We were supposed to go fishing with them. Did some packing, & put some things in the car. Back to Procheting, till the men came in - no fish & Doc was sick. I think he's had too much sun, wind, cold air and the boat rocked too much. He went to bed and we 3 ate supper. Doc got to feeling better and we played pinochle after supper. Starting to rain & lots of loud booms. Showers & Bed.

Up at 5:05 AM on Sat. June 28. Put the remaining things in car. I couldn't find my car keys. They were found in the jacket pocket, that I wore last night while packing the car. Speedometer reading is 7473. It is very cold & we turned the car heater on. all sang Happy Birthday to me - it's June 28. Saw 2 deer at the side of the road, 1 big eared rabbit and many huge black birds eating the run over animals - no bears though. It's foggy at 6:25. Got to Virginia and Burteous took the scenic route through town to find

## XVI

a restaurant. They didn't have their sidewalks unfolded yet - no one in sight - no place to get food or even a cup of coffee. Stopped to get our map out of the trunk - (so we won't get lost). It was drizzling rain. Stopped at Cotton - a small spot in the road - at 7:10 - for breakfast. Food was very good. We were on our way again, 35 minutes after we stopped. The sun is beaming brightly at 8:30 and we aren't lost yet. Rest stop and gas 16 gal + \$20 at 9:15.

Still cool. Got new Minnesota maps & also a new driver. Doc is behind the wheel. Got through St. Paul without getting lost. It's 10:45 and we are trying to get lost in Minneapolis. That's where we are heading. Crossed the Mississippi River 4 times and Minnesota River once within 20 minutes. Here's how it's done. Go from 35E to 694 to 494 to 110 then calamity begins. We made 2 circles after leaving 110 to get to 5 - to get to 65 to get to 35W. The sign to Richfield got us confused. We are on 35W at 11:30 A.M. & safe (I think) Don't think we'll get lost! If they would finish up that 494 loop, it would help. Stopped at noon at Huckleberry Inn - just before Faribault a big bus and about 2 dozen trucks, loaded with Air National Guard, were coming out as we were going in. We went through a Cafeteria line. Good food. 12:45 and on our way again - 1:50 Iowa line. and we stopped for gas 16 gal + \$20 at 2:15. Also guess what?? Rest Stop! At 4:20 P.M. we have turned off on #235 at Des Moines & heading for Nordstroms - Exit 2 - Cline - 22nd St - turn left

XVII

turn right at light - Ashworth, then left at 23rd, to prospect, then right at 22nd to mine, turn right then  $\frac{1}{2}$  block to Park Lane. Dizzy ?? I am. Arrived at 4:30 P.M. (2 or 3 hrs sooner than we expected. No one home, but they soon came. Marge had what she called a simple supper, but I call it a super feast. Then I had another Birthday surprise. All sang Happy Birthday again. Marge had made a choc cake and decorated it with Matt & Angie's help. There was green grass & blue water, a fisherwoman with pole in hand hooked to a boot. Gold purse on arm & Cola can on grass, boat with motor in water, big fish cooking on a grill. There were yellow flowers & yellow hair & yellow decorations on coat & boots. It was served with super delicious ice cream. Had very good night's rest in Angie's bed - no snores heard, because Curteous was in Matt's bed. Good simple breakfast - had 6 kinds of cereal to choose from and hot muffins, juice & coffee. Doug cooked pork chops out on his new grill for noon, another simple feast. Took pictures and headed home at 2:25. Sure is warmer in Missouri than it was in Minnesota.

I must mention also that Mathias and Curteous saw a lot of familiar people while fishing - Mother Goose, Father John, Cecil Harris, Ma & Pa Kettle, Maurice Sheir, and Gramps. I think Gramps got a little disturbed when our 2 fisherman came to a spot where he was fishing, from inside his cabin.

It was a good week of good fun, good food, good pinacle, good fellowship, good laughs & good trip.